

**RIDE ANDES CHILE-ARGENTINA
ANDEAN VALLEYS CROSSING**

Season: November to March

Chile to Argentina: Deep into the untouched Andes!



Introduction

Immerse yourself in this six-day adventure through the Chilean Andes as we cross rivers and traverse ancient forests en route to Argentina. You will discover the remote valleys and azure lakes of northern Patagonia and also experience the original pioneer's way of life, all in the tranquillity of a pristine wilderness.

Testimonial

"The trek was brilliant- well ahead of expectations and even what I could have imagined. It was a breath-taking experience in spectacular scenery, a memory for life and perhaps a follow up trek! This was a true adventure of real substance!" Eric, November 2019

Andean Valleys Crossing

Each night staying in a pioneer's home, savouring traditional home-cooked recipes, cooked with local ingredients. Spend the evening sitting around the woodburning stove listening to their fascinating tales of how they arrived in these valleys along the waterways - carving an existence out of the thick undergrowth. For two of the nights, a private island awaits to host you, accessible by boat.

What You Need To Know?

- 6-day itinerary, Chile to Argentina, no camping
- Season: November to March
- Fixed date departures/Private groups (tour can be adapted)
- Maximum 10 riders on fixed date departures
- No camping needed; bedrooms maximum 3 people, shared bathroom
- Steady pace - mountainous areas & forest trails mean no fast-paced riding
- Single riders welcome (availability of single room depends on group size)
- Great family option -but must manage 6/7 hours riding on some days
- Not suitable for those with severe allergic reactions to bee/wasp stings
- Due to lower water levels, for safety reasons, during February and March, we travel back around to the start point in the Lake District, Chile instead of continuing on into Argentina.



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Andean Valleys Crossing

Overview:

DAY 1: Stunning Scenery - Fjords, Estuaries, Volcanoes...

*Dinner & Overnight at a riverside house at Las Rosas.
B, L, T, D (approx. 2 hours riding, 4 hours transfer)*

DAY 2: The Ventisqueros Valley, Ancient Forests & Glaciers.

*Dinner & Overnight at Ventisqueros
B, L, T, D (approx. 6 hours riding)*

DAY 3: The First Settlers & Larch Forests.

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at Ventisqueros.
B, L, T, D, (approx. 5-6 hours riding)*

DAY 4: Suspension Bridge & Private Island.

*Dinner & Overnight on the private island, in two charming houses.
B, L, T, D (approx. 7 hours riding)*

DAY 5: Valdivian Forest & Lago Azul.

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight on the private island, in two charming houses.
B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)*

DAY 6: No Man's Land & Crossing into Argentina*

B, L, (approx. 1 hour riding, 50 minutes navigation on the lakes, 3 hours private transfer to Bariloche)

End of services

***February & March Itinerary Change:**

DAY 6: Leisurely Walk, Ferry Crossing & Vehicle back to Puerto Varas.

For your safety, due to low autumn water levels, the itinerary has to be changed and guests arrive back at the Puerto Varas, Chile ride start point.

B, L, (approx. 1 hour vehicle transfer to ferry, 45 minute ferry crossing, 3 hours minibus transfer to Puerto Varas).

Arriving/Departing/Extensions:

Start & ending point: Start point Puerto Varas (Chile), end point San Carlos de Bariloche (Argentina). We can use our extensive knowledge to help arrange 'extensions' in Chile and for crossing between Chile & Argentina, please consult with us.



Detailed Itinerary:
DAY 1: Stunning Scenery - Fjords, Estuaries, Volcanoes...

Leaving Puerto Varas, a morning transfer towards the Andes. As the journey begins, views of the Llanquihue Lake and the Calbuco and Osorno Volcanoes come into focus. We arrive at the edge of the Reloncaví Fjord, the area well-known for its salmon fishing industry. On the way to our first ferry crossing, we journey up the Río Puelo Valley. Time for lunch before crossing the Puelo River and, at the same time we disconnect - crossing into an internet and telephone free area. A little further, at the end of the road, we meet our horses and team of baqueanos (local horsemen). First, we have to cross the river by motorboat, the horses swimming alongside us. Arriving on the other side, while the baqueanos load the pack horses, guests get to know their horse, usually the same horse for the whole ride. Once ready, we set out along the meandering river beaches and through farmland. Late in the afternoon, we arrive at Las Rosas, to stay at a baqueano's home on the shores of the Puelo River.

*Dinner & Overnight at a riverside house at Las Rosas.
B, L, T, D (approx. 2 hours riding, 4 hours transfer)*

DAY 2: The Ventisqueros Valley, Ancient Forests & Glaciers.

Today, we will continue our ride into the Río Ventisqueros Valley. An incredible day encircled by mountains awaits us, passing through ancient woodlands, across open spaces and along the riverbanks - the river fed by the glacier high above the head of the valley. We will be crossing dense forests, passing self-sufficient smallholdings and, just as the locals have to do, we will ride across the wide Ventisqueros River to reach our remote destination. After enjoying lunch on one of the Ventisqueros River beaches, we will continue on to the little farm where we will be hosted for two nights by Bernardita who lives in one of the most isolated parts of this region.

*Dinner & Overnight at Ventisqueros
B, L, T, D (approx. 6 hours riding)*



DAY 3: The First Settlers & Larch Forests.

Today, we venture even further up the valley, with beautiful views of the hanging Ventisqueros Glacier, high above us. Our route takes us across the property of the very first settler of the valley. The trail then leads us through a huge expanse of forest alongside the bubbling river and after crisscrossing the river, we will ride through a forest of larch (*Fitzroya Cupresoyde*). These tall conifers are native to the area and known for their longevity. No one lives in this remote and virgin region; it is exhilarating to know few people ride into this barely touched valley. We have lunch near the Raquelita River and return to Bernadita's house in time for a mid-afternoon swim in the clear blue river.

*Dinner & 2nd Overnight at Ventisqueros.
B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)*



DAY 4: Suspension Bridge & Private Island.

This morning we will set off on our longest ride. Another route that is primarily forests, river crossings and waterfalls against a backdrop of glorious mountains in a pure, pollution-free environment. After a relaxing lunch, we cross the Puelo River over a suspension bridge; this solidly built construction has greatly helped the pioneers. This place is particularly spectacular due to its waterfalls and the rushing water under the bridge. After crossing, we follow trails along the mountain slopes to Las Rocas Lake. At the end of the ride, we leave the horses to graze on the banks of the lake and a motorboat takes guests to a private island, a remote haven with 360 degrees of amazing views surrounded by the quiet of the cordillera. Guests can unwind on the decks of the charming wood-built houses and take a swim in the crystal-clear waters of the lake.

Dinner & Overnight on the private island, in two charming houses.

B, L, T, D (approx. 7 hours riding)

DAY 5: Valdivian Forest & Lago Azul.

Today we will leave the island to meet the horses and the baqueanos on the shores of the lake. After a quick stop at the farm - La Colina, where riders can glimpse farm life in the heart of the cordillera, the journey continues to the Lago Azul for lunch on a beach. After the picnic, we ride back towards Las Rocas Lake through parts of the ancient Valdivian forest. There are only a few temperate rain forests in the world, the Valdivian forest is one of them, characterized by very dense undergrowth including species of bamboo, ferns and Chilean rhubarb as well as evergreen trees. Chile's national flower, the copihue (*Lapageria rosea*) - a pioneer species, is the first to reinhabit disturbed areas of this forest. At the end of the ride, we return by boat to the private island.

Dinner & 2nd Overnight on the private island, in two charming houses.

B, L, T, D (approx. 5-6 hours riding)

DAY 6: No Man's Land and crossing into Argentina*

Today we change countries - we ride a short way to the Chilean border post, Retén Paso El Bolsón; jumping off the horses with passports in hand, the riders complete the formalities. Now in no man's land - between the Chilean and Argentine border posts - we ride down to Inferior Lake, the official harbour of the frontier and the end of our ride. It is time to say farewell to the horses and baqueanos.

From here we take a motorboat for 45 minutes along two lakes, crossing the rapids between Argentina and Chile. After going through customs and immigration on the Argentine side of the Andes, we meet the transfer that takes us to a restaurant for lunch and then to Bariloche, passing through El Bolsón. The small city of Bariloche, surrounded by lakes and mountains, is an ideal location to slip back into 'civilisation', particularly with the aid of their delicious chocolates and Argentinian wines.

B, L (approx. 1 hour riding, 50 minutes navigation on the lakes, 3 hour private transfer to Bariloche)

End of services

***February & March itinerary change:**

DAY 6: Leisurely Walk, Ferry Crossing & vehicle back to Puerto Varas.

For your safety, due to low autumn water levels, the itinerary has to be changed during February and March. It is beautiful scenery and - with the boat rides and walk, a lovely way to finish this Andes adventure. After breakfast, we leave the island by boat, normally a 15 minute trip to the little dock. A gentle walk from the dock to the farm, where the horses are based. Then a vehicle transfer to the ferry (approx 1 hour). The ferry takes about 45 minutes then continues to Puerto Varas (approx 3 hours).

B, L (approx. 1 hour vehicle transfer to ferry, 45 minute ferry crossing, 3 hours minibus transfer to Puerto Varas).

End of services



2021/2022 Prices from:

Length	double/twin per person	Single Supplement	Rider Weight supplement (89- 98 kg. 196-215lbs)
(6D/5N)	from USD 3500	Please consult	USD 290

Included:

All accommodation; all meals (from day 1 lunch to final day lunch); a half bottle of wine per person for dinner on riding days; English speaking guide & local guides "baqueanos"; riding on the 6 days (except February/ March route: 5 days riding); horses, packhorses & spare horses; ponchos & saddlebags; grooms services; all necessary transfers/transport as per itinerary; all necessary local taxes, private reserve & national park entrance fees. VHF communication radio. Briefing evening before ride.

Not included:

Appropriate medical insurance (mandatory), visa (as necessary), international or national airport taxes, dinner day 6, personal expenditure, tips, and all services not mentioned in the description above.



Photo by @jpverdesoto

F.A.Q's

Horses & Tack: During this tour, riders usually stay with the same horse (as long as the rider is happy!). Our intention is for riders to actually build a bond with their horse and enjoy not only the landscape and ride but also the company of their horse! One or more spare horses will accompany us in case a change is needed. The Chilean horse is descended from horses brought by Spanish to South America during the colonisation. In every South American country horses have been developed depending on the topography and uses. The Chilean animal has roots in Arabian and British horses. Like many other Creole breeds across Latin America, the Chilean Creole is medium size but extremely strong. The horses are born and bred in the region so that they are perfectly familiar with the terrain. The saddle is a light South American structure, with no high pommel and thick sheepskins to sit on – ideal for this type of ride.

Accommodation: Nights 1 to 3: We will be warmly welcomed into the local's homes, giving guests an excellent opportunity to share in their lifestyle. The houses are very cosy, although rustic, with shared bathroom facilities. These extremely charming abodes offer mostly 2-3 bedded rooms. **Nights 2 & 3** sometimes mattresses on the floor. **Nights 4 & 5:** You will stay on a private island which has a main house with 2 bedrooms and a wood-built cottage (cabaña) with 3 sleeping areas and 2 bathrooms. The main house has a warm living-dining room on the first floor. **Exact bedroom options confirmed at the time of inquiry.**

Meals: During the trip, Chilean Creole cuisine is the typical fare. Delicious meals with organically grown, locally sourced produce are prepared on wood-burning stoves as well as the Chilean Asado (BBQ). Depending on the season, you will be able to taste delicious rainbow trout or brown trout. We can cater for vegetarians and other dietary requirements as long as we are warned in advance. The water is safe to drink and has a crisp, clean taste.

For further information please contact:
rideandes@rideandes.com
www.rideandes.com

Climate: Please keep in mind that temperatures in the mountains are highly variable. It might be cold (down to freezing) zero degrees or below early in the morning and in the evening, but up to 28 / 32° C at midday. It can also rain at any time!

Clothes and Equipment: Travel notes will be sent with useful information including a suggested packing list and guide contact details etc. To cope with changing temperatures, as a good idea 'layering' is advised. Space for luggage during the ride will be strictly limited.

Emergencies: In case of an accident, for most of the route communication is via VHF radio at the places we stay at.

Health Services: No special vaccine is currently required for this part of South America but each guest must check the vaccine situation with an appropriate travel clinic. Also depending on where you live/have travelled to recently there may be special entry requirements (yellow fever, etc). Clients with special medication should bring enough for the whole trip since you will not be able to buy medicine during our journey. It is very important that you state on the information sheet if you have suffered from heart disease; if you take diabetes medicine, if you have some kind of blood illness, etc. In certain seasons a wasp species called "chaquetas amarillas" (yellow jackets) appears. If you are allergic to wasp stings, we suggest you take the treatment required with you and warn us so that we can help in the case of an emergency. We do not recommend people who are highly allergic to wasp/bee stings – rather than just a mild allergy, to come on this ride as it is impossible to evacuate people quickly. Each person must evaluate the wasp/'yellow jacket'/bee situation very carefully, please contact us to discuss

Safety: We work with qualified staff with safety equipment. On boat crossings, life jackets are provided. The outfitter has an international adventure tourism insurance. However, clients must have their own travel insurance that covers them for the activities on the tour. We will always bring a first aid kit and guides with the necessary safety skills.

Important Notes

- Booking will be confirmed upon receipt of the corresponding deposit (a 30% prepayment will be required upon confirmation and the balance will be required no later than 45 days before the beginning of the tour).
- Exceptional postponement/cancellation policy in place due to circumstances directly related to Covid-19, please request full details.
- We reserve the right to alter the itinerary due to circumstances beyond our control.
- Prices can alter without prior notice (preceding a confirmed booking)
- Appropriate medical insurance is mandatory and the responsibility of each guest/booking agent.
- Rider weight limits are in place, please refer to each itinerary for details.
- It is the responsibility of the individual guest/booking agent to ensure that participants have the necessary riding skills to take part in the chosen tour.
- Guests are strongly advised to bring and wear their riding helmets while riding during the tour.
- Guests will be required to sign a responsibility release before starting a tour.

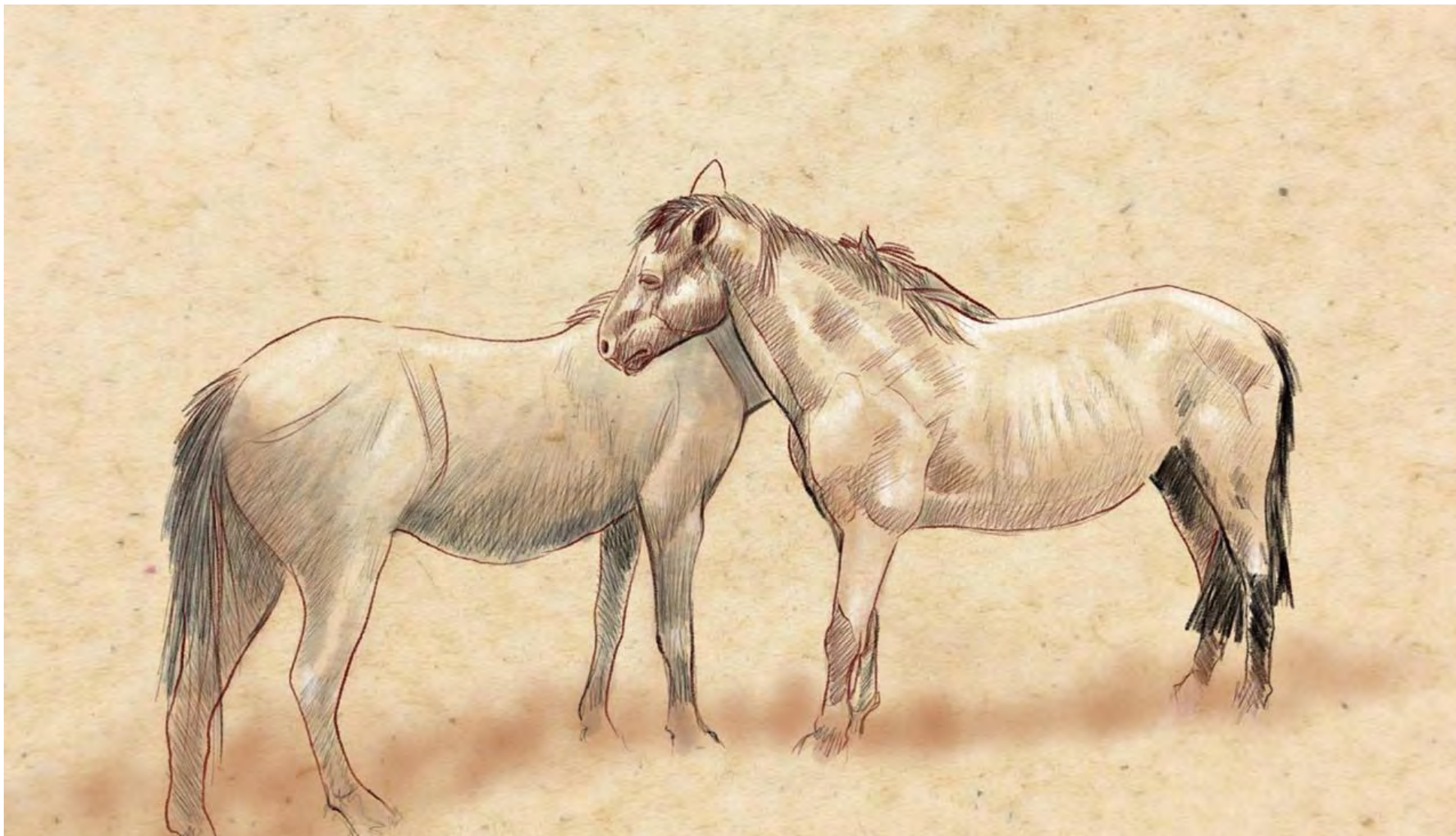
About Ride Andes:

Sally Vergette, an English rider, moved out to Ecuador in 1996 and shortly afterwards founded Ride Andes specializing in tours 'journeying on' through magnificent parts of South America. In 2003, using her knowledge acquired in Ecuador and with a local business partner, she was the first to set up estancia to estancia riding tours in Uruguay.




Ecuador is still her base but Ride Andes is involved in providing spectacular riding tours – many itineraries designed by Sally - in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Chile-Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay. Sally is still very active in all aspects of the rides in these destinations but is now supported by excellent local guides and only leads a few of these tours.

**For further information please contact:
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